

Agricultural *and* Natural Resource M·E·D·I·A·T·I·O·N

Wyoming Department of Agriculture

WHEN AN AGRICULTURE PRODUCER is involved in a conflict, the added stress can prevent them from effectively managing their operation, particularly if the dispute concerns a financial issue. As the conflict accelerates, the producer may spend excess time and money trying to resolve the situation through the court system. The Wyoming Agriculture and Natural Resource Mediation Program offers a process to assist Wyoming citizens in resolving their disputes in a way that is voluntary, confidential, low-cost and time saving.

Mediation is a process that helps disputing parties come together and have an open, honest and confidential discussion about the issues. A trained mediator helps parties explore the options that are available to them and find an end to the conflict through mutually agreed upon solutions. A mediator does not act as a judge, deciding who is right or wrong. The parties themselves control the result of the mediation and any agreement that is developed



TO REQUEST MEDIATION, contact the Wyoming Agriculture and Natural Resource Mediation Program. The mediation coordinator will ask for a short letter stating the nature of the conflict, along with the name and contact information for the other party. If mediation is being requested based on an adverse decision by one of the USDA programs (FSA, NRCS, or Rural Housing), the request must be made within a certain timeline. If you have questions about this process, you can contact your local USDA office or the mediation program.

Facts about Mediation...

- Participation is voluntary and confidential
- Sanctioned by federal law and Wyoming statutes (W.S. 11-41-101)
- USDA-FSA, NRCS, Rural Development and USFS have provisions for mediation and other alternative dispute resolution processes

Where can Mediation be used?

- Farm debt and credit disputes
- Grazing and public land use
- Easement and access issues
- Split estate conflicts
- Wildlife/Livestock conflicts
- Family estate transition
- Many other issues

Program Services:

Situation Assessment
Consultation
Mediation
Agency Intervention
Convening
Training
Facilitation
Agreements

THERE ARE OVER 50 MEDIATORS located statewide who have been certified through the Wyoming Agriculture and Natural Resource Mediation Program. Many of the mediators have backgrounds in agriculture, others have experience in workplace disputes, financial issues, family conflict resolution, and government. To become a certified mediator, participants attend a 30-hour initial training along with an 8-hour recertification every two years.

THE MEDIATION PROCESS IS SIMPLE. The mediator will start by laying out the ground rules that will help keep the process productive. The mediator will also answer any questions the parties might have. Next, both parties will be given the opportunity to talk about the situation as they see it. After everyone has had a chance to talk, the mediator will begin to identify the main issues that need to be discussed and help the parties to start exploring some options for resolving the conflict. As the options are discussed, the mediator will ensure that any solutions are agreed to by both parties.

IF THE PARTIES ARE NOT ABLE to come to a final agreement, the mediator will end the session. All parties are free to pursue other avenues to resolve the conflict.

To request mediation or to get more information about the Wyoming Agriculture and Natural Resource Mediation Program, contact the mediation coordinator at (307) 777-7323 or 1-888-996-9278.